

## **REMARKS**

This paper is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 23, 2010 in reference to the above-captioned application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the accompanying remarks.

### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-24 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 5-12 and 14-24 are rejected.

Claims 4 and 13 were canceled previously.

Independent Claims 1, 10, 16, 18, 20 are amended to clarify the invention, and to remedy the rejection under 35 USC § 112 by amending the language as suggested. Support for the amendments is found, for example, in embodiments of the invention found in the specification at page 22, including step 501, page 23, including step 510, pages 30-31, and page 35, and FIG. 18.

Claims 20-24 are amended to remedy the claim objections to incorporate the suggested claim language.

Claims 5 and 14 are amended to remedy the claim objections.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 20-24 are objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended the claims as suggested in the Office Action, and therefore submit that the objections are remedied.

### **Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1, 10, 16, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lacking antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claims to remedy the rejection.

### **Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-15, 18-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Vaeth et al. (6,308,277) (hereinafter Vaeth) in view of Kobata et al. (6,591,367) (hereinafter Kobata), and further in view of DeBry (6,385,728). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants amend claim 1 to include the steps of verifying a user's identity by referring to a usage history to determine the user as an authenticated user; verifying that a certificate has been prepared by the witness; requesting preparation of a certificate by the witness; determining whether the witness has accepted the witness process; synchronizing clocks of the proof service provider with the witness; and accepting the certificate from the witness.

Vaeth discloses a method and system for creating and administering certificates, and ensuring authentication of the certificate transaction. Vaeth at least does not disclose steps above, recited in claim 1. For example, Vaeth does not disclose the step of synchronizing clocks of the proof service provider with the witness. Further, neither Kobata or DeBry remedy the deficiencies of Vaeth. For example, in an embodiment of the invention, a system of the service provider obtains data for clock synchronization to adjust the clock of the system with the witness (specification, pages 30-31). None of the cited references teach at least the clock synchronization step as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

### **Rejection of the Dependent claims**

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5-12, and 14-15, incorporate all of the limitations of their respective base claims, and are believed allowable as being dependent on allowable base claims.

### **Claims 16 and 23**

Claims 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Vaeth in view of Lim, and further in view of DeBry. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Independent claims 16 and 23 are similarly amended as claim 1. Applicants believe Lim does not remedy the deficiencies of Vaeth and DeBry as discussed above regarding claim 1.

### **Claim 17**

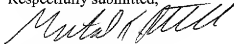
Dependent claim 17 incorporates all of the limitations of its base claim 16, and is believed allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim, as Kohl does not remedy the deficiencies of the cited references as discussed above regarding claim 1.

### **Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the paper submitted herein provides a complete response to the Office Action, and the present case is in condition for allowance. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims in due course. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case,

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned Applicant's attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Petrocelli", written in a cursive style.

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